

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 11-14 are amended, and claims 19-22 are added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-15, 17, 18 and 19-22 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on November 8, 2004. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the next Office Action. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,894,306 to Ichimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,983,263 to Rothrock et al. ("Rothrock"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Ichimura does not teach or suggest a meeting system and an information storage medium including "a virtual machine that reads files in a common format and performs operations specified in the files, the virtual machine converting said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be reproduced," as recited in independent claims 1-3, and similarly recited in independent claims 11-14.

The Office Action appears to indicate that Ichimura teaches, in col. 10, line 65 - col. 11, line 6, a virtual machine that operates as follows: "when user-input data detection section 21 detects an input of pen data, the pen data is displayed on screen 11 in the order of input as shown in Fig. 8. In this embodiment, display section 25 displays handwriting Pa and a string of a speaker name Sa as shown in Fig. 8. Thus, in the example shown in Fig. 8, two user

inputs are received and consecutively displayed." See col. 10, line 65 - col. 11, line 6.

Notwithstanding these assertions, Ichimura does not teach or suggest a virtual machine that reads files in a common format and performs operations specified in the file, as set forth independent claims 1-3 and 11-14.

Ichimura teaches an electronic meeting device 10 including a computer comprising a data record/playback device, the electronic meeting board displaying data representing the background of each user-input data on the screen in addition to the user-input data inputted by the user. See col. 3, lines 59-61. Ichimura also teaches that the data record/playback device may detect a state that includes at least one of circumstantial information and eventual information about a moment when the user input is detected. See col. 3, line 67 – col. 4, line 3; and col. 6, lines 41-67. Further, Ichimura teaches that two user inputs are received and consecutively displayed." See col. 10, line 65 - col. 11, line 6.

As the inputted data is displayed, conversion of the inputted data into a data format which allows reproduction may arguably be inherently present. However, Ichimura does not teach or suggest that the electronic meeting device 10 reads files in a common format and performs operations specified in the file. Therefore, Ichimura does not teach or suggest the virtual machine and the information storage medium set forth in claims 1-3 and 11-14.

The Office Action asserts that Rothrock remedies the deficiencies of Ichimura. However, Rothrock is directed to a method and apparatus for transmitting images from a first processing system to a second processing system over a communication link via an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock does not teach or suggest a virtual machine that reads files in a common format and performs operations specified in the files, the virtual machine converting supplied data into a data format which allows meeting data to be reproduced, as set forth in claims 1-3 and 11-14.

Claims 4-9 and 21 depend from claim 3, claim 15 depends from claim 14, claims 17-18 and 19 depend from claim 1, claim 20 depends from claim 2, and claim 22 depends from claim 11. Therefore, claims 4-9, 15 and 17-22 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 3, 14, 1, 2 and 11, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Form PTO-1449 (filed November 8, 2004)

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 108100	APPLICATION NO. 09/743,112		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Hiroshi KAMAKURA et al.			
				FILING DATE January 16, 2001	GROUP 2141		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUB CLASS
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	EP 0 847 178 A2	06/10/1998	Europe			
	2	GB 2 324 175 A	10/14/1998	Great Britain			
	3	WO 99/06910	02/11/1999	WIPO			
	4	JP A 6-4498 w/Abstract and Translation	01/14/1994	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	5	Bodendorf et al., "Telelearning in the virtual lecture theatre," Displays, Elsevier Science Publishers BV., vol. 17, no. 3-4, May 1, 1997, pages 147-151					
	6	Franze et al., "An Infrastructure for Collaborative Teleteaching," Enabling Technologies: Infrastructure for Collaborative Enterprises, 1997, Proceedings., Sixth IEEE Workshops on Cambridge, MA, USA 18-20, June 18, 1997, pages 341-346					
	7	Sun Microsystems: "Jini™ Technology and Emerging Network Technologies," Sun Microsystems, January 18, 1999, the whole document					
	8	"Sun Microsystems Jini™ Architectural Overview," Sun Microsystems ICG White Paper, XX, XX, January 1999, pages 1-27					
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							